Claims

1. A method of controlling link adaptation in a communication link at least one end of the communication link have a transmission codec having a plurality of modes of operation, the method comprising: monitoring the condition of a received signal, and forwarding an instruction to change the mode of operation of the transmission codec responsive to a change in the condition of the received signal.

2. The method of claim 1 in which there is a minimum period between the forwarding of successive instructions.

3. The method of claim 2 in which the minimum period is 160ms.

4. The method of claim 1 in which the instruction to change the codec mode of operation is a command or a request.

5. The method of claim 1 in which both ends of the communication link have a transmission codec.

6. The method of claim 5 in which one end of the communication link forwards a command to change the codec mode of operation and the other end of the communication link forwards a request to change the codec mode of operation.

7. The method of claim 1 in which the communication link is a link in a mobile communications system.

8. The method of claim 7 in which the mobile communications system is a packet switched system.

9. A device for maintaining a communication link with another device, including: means for receiving a signal from the other device; means for monitoring the condition of the received signal; means, responsive to a change in the condition of the received

signal, for determining a new mode of operation of a transmission codec, and means for transmitting the new mode of operation of the transmission codec to the other device responsive to the change in the condition of the received signal.

10. The device of claim 9 wherein the means for transmitting the new mode of operation is controlled such that there is a minimum period between successive transmissions: